WINTER-SPRING
2019

Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

FUNDAMENTALS

Molly-Claire Gillett (second from right) at the Irish Georgian Society (IGS) Assembly House in Dublin receiving her award from Michael Wall, IGS chairman.

Concordian wins Irish Georgian Society's Desmond Guinness Scholarship

PhD candidate in Irish studies and art history **Molly-Claire Gillett** won the Irish Georgian Society's Desmond Guinness Scholarship for her research on Emily Anderson. The 19th-century designer of Irish lace counted Queen Victoria among her clients. With a €700 cash prize, the award is rarely given to a student at an institution outside Ireland or the U.K.

Gillett is deeply involved in the activities of the School of Irish Studies. Serving on the 2018 Irish Studies graduate conference committee, she is also helping organize Insula, the March 2019 edition, and facilitate the Irish Studies graduate student professional development seminars. She recently received a Concordia Graduate Student Mobility Award to help fund her thesis research in Dublin and Belfast.

Warm wishes for a very happy St. Patrick's Day!

– Pamela McGovern, Chair, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

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CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION FUNDAMENTALS

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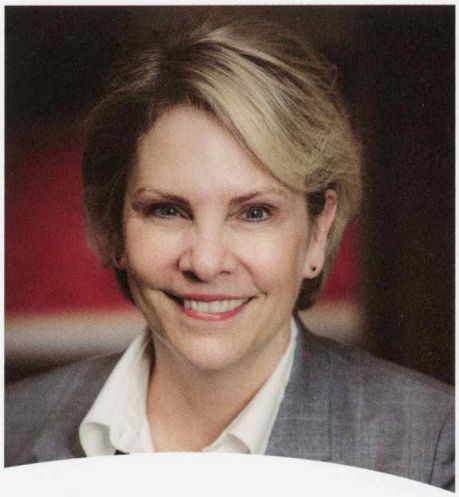
Ten Years A-Growing
Dix ans de croissance

10 YEARS

ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES

Chair McGovern seeks your support



As the School of Irish Studies celebrates its 10th anniversary, the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation is launching a fundraising campaign to drive the next stage of the development of Irish Studies at Concordia.

Our $500,000 goal aims to fund the appointment of a professor with a specialty in the Irish language, increase the value of several modest scholarships, and extend the visit of the Peter O'Brien scholar, consolidating the school's national and international profile.

An appointment in the Irish language — especially in the Quebec context — would not only provide students with the opportunity to enhance their Irish-language skills, it would open the door for them to explore a wide range of related issues, such as government policy, cultural nationalism, landscape and language, linguistic preservation and matters of national affiliation.

I am very enthusiastic about seeing the school grow and prosper and believe these projects will contribute greatly to the growth of Irish Studies at Concordia. I am especially keen to learn more about the Irish story in Quebec and Canada.

I am delighted that, as part of the graduate student conference on March 9, there will be a panel of Irish Studies students at Concordia speaking on aspects of this history. Topics to be discussed are: the Irish language question in Canada, St. Patrick's Basilica, Irish traditional music in Montreal in recent decades and the Irish fiddle tradition in Canada. All readers are welcome to attend.

In the meantime, I invite readers to donate to the anniversary campaign. We would be delighted and grateful for your support.

Thank you!

Pamela McGovern
Chair, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

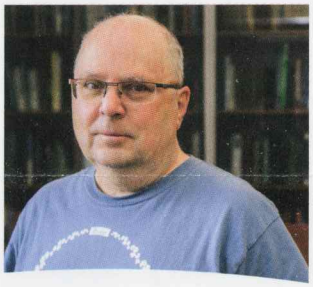
CUBAN STUDENT CHOOSES SCHOOL OF IRISH STUDIES

Cuban student **Giselle Gonzalez** chose Concordia's Irish Studies program for her master's because of the school's international reputation, particularly for Irish diaspora studies. Gonzalez's main research interests are Irish migration to Cuba and Ireland-Cuba historical connections.

Gonzalez began her MA degree in Irish studies and history in September 2018, receiving an Irish Studies Fellowship Award from the school. She is already heavily involved in its various activities. She is a member of the 2019 Irish Studies graduate student committee organizing the Insula graduate conference in March 2019.

Gonzalez is involved with the Society for Irish Latin American Studies, which holds regular conferences in Irish studies across South America. Her article on the 19th-century Irish presence in Guanabacoa, Cuba was recently accepted for publication in *Coloquios Presencias Europeas en Cuba: Memorias 2017-2018* (Ediciones Boloña). Gonzalez received her BA in history from the University of Havana in 2016.

'FORTUNATE TO BE AT CONCORDIA'



Winnipeg native **Miles Murphy** is a first-year undergraduate mature student who moved to Montreal to attend the School of Irish Studies.

Murphy is a past director of the Irish Association of Manitoba and a frequent contributor to *Irish Central*, a leading Irish digital media company in North America. He has contributed articles on talks by visiting lecturers at Concordia, including Margaret Kelleher on famine memorials and Cahal McLaughlin on the Prison Memory Archive.

With a lifelong interest in the Irish language, history and culture, Murphy enjoyed living in Ireland while working for a multinational test publishing company from 2012 to 2014.

Murphy feels fortunate to pursue formal studies at Concordia and says the diversity of subjects and range of courses offered in the Irish Studies program greatly exceed his expectations. He looks forward to contributing to the Irish community in Montreal, Canada and Ireland.

He chose Concordia for its high-quality degree program with outstanding professors from Ireland and Canada: "The professors are incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects and the support from the department is amazing!"

AWARD-WINNING IRISH AUTHOR JOINS WRITERS READ SERIES

JMA PHOTOGRAPHY

Named one of the 10 best Irish and British novelists writing today in a 2018 Times Literary Supplement poll, **Eimear McBride** has won numerous awards for her novels, *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* and *The Lesser Bohemians*. In 2017, she was awarded the inaugural Creative Fellowship of the Samuel Beckett Research Centre, University of Reading.

She will give a reading during Concordia's Writers Read Series, in collaboration with the School of Irish Studies. Join her March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Concordia University Conference Centre on the 9th floor of the John Molson Building, 1450 Guy St.

SAVE THE DATES: MAJOR IRISH STUDIES CONFERENCE COMING TO CONCORDIA MAY 29 – JUNE 1

As part of the year-long series of events marking the 10th anniversary of the School of Irish Studies, the 2019 conference of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies will take place on campus, organized by Jane McGaughey, associate professor of Irish Studies. She is also president of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies.

Set to welcome 100 delegates from Canada and around the world, the conference will include academic lectures, panel discussions and keynote lectures by Joanna Burke, professor of history at Birbeck, University of London, and Rhona Richman Kenneally, Concordia professor of design and computation arts and fellow and co-founder of the School of Irish Studies.

The conference will feature the exclusive preview of a major film on the tragic story of an Irish immigrant ship to Quebec (see article below), a reading and master class in creative writing by high-profile Irish writer Kevin Barry, and the launch of the most recent edition of *Winter Papers*, the Irish cultural journal edited by Barry and Olivia Smith.

The school will launch a special issue of the *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies* on the contemporary Irish Short Story, edited by Michael Kenneally. In conjunction with the Montreal Jewish Public Library, the conference will also feature a special exhibition — Representations of the Jews in Irish Literature — with a lecture titled "Hyphenated Identity: Irish-Jewish Autobiographies," by Pól Ó Dochartaigh, professor at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Conference registration will be open to the public. Stay tuned for further information.

EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW: DOCUMENTARY ON SHIPWRECK SURVIVORS

Lost Children of the Carricks: Irish Famine Memory in Rural Québec

The first trilingual documentary film on the Great Irish Famine, ***Lost Children of the Carricks: Irish Famine Memory in Rural Québec*** will screen at Concordia during the Canadian Association for Irish Studies conference.

Produced and directed by **Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin**, holder of the Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies, the film explores the Great Famine from multiple linguistic and cultural perspectives. It showcases the extraordinary oral memory of Irish-Québécois historian Georges Kavanagh, whose ancestors survived the wreck of the coffin ship Carricks off the coast of the Gaspé peninsula in May 1847.

Filmed in Gaspé, Que., and in Sligo, Ireland, this documentary follows Kavanagh to the landmarks and seamarks of the Carricks tragedy and on his journey to find his ancestral village in the Gaelic-speaking northwest of Ireland.

SUMMER COURSE ON CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

Visiting Professor **Nessa Cronin** will offer a cultural geography course from July 2 to August 1. Contemporary Irish Landscapes, Literatures and Cultures will explore the sense of place as a defining element in Irish culture. The course will critically examine the writings of key Irish writers and explore themes such as language, politics, gender, ethnicity and the environment. It will also engage with ecocritical texts and materials relating to recent international work in the environmental humanities and climate change research.

"Collecting Meteorites at Knowth"
by Seán Hillen from his book *Irelantis*

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNIZED: $54,250 IN FINANCIAL AWARDS

For the fall 2018 term, in recognition of academic excellence, 18 students received Irish Studies scholarships with a combined value of **$26,750**, and 19 received tuition awards from the **Brian O'Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund** for a total of **$27,500**.

DONATION GROWS RARE BOOK COLLECTION

The family of the late **John Kirwan (Kerry) Martin** donated a collection of several dozen books to Concordia's School of Irish Studies. Contributing to the growing Irish Studies Rare Book Collection created in 2017, the books deal with 19th-century Irish history, some focusing on the Martin family in County Galway. The donation was made by his brother, Michael C. Martin, and facilitated by Peter Shea, historian at the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal.

IRENE MULRONEY SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

The Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney boosted the scholarship he created in honour of his mother through a recent $13,200 donation. The Irene Mulroney Scholarship in Irish Studies is now able to provide an annual scholarship of $5,000.

"We are deeply grateful to Mr. Mulroney and other family members for building up this fund," says Pamela McGovern, chair of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation.

Kyle McCreanor is the current recipient of the Irene Mulroney Scholarship in Irish Studies. The MA student is conducting comparative research in Irish and Basque nationalisms.

THANKS TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS OF 2018!

Donor support is critical to encourage deserving students and advance Irish Studies at Concordia.

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Sandra Woods

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Taking a break from their studies in the Fr. Thomas McEntee Reading Room are, from left to right: Kay Nguyen (undergraduate), Christopher Byrne (undergraduate), Giselle Gonzalez (MA), Kyle McCreanor (MA), Evan Clarke(undergraduate), Kelly Lamb (undergraduate), Rebecca Stacey (MA), Emerald Hutton (undergraduate).

HELP US TO EMPOWER STUDENTS TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS.

Please help us with our anniversary campaign. Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated.

Did you know: It is possible to donate appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual funds and take advantage of the best tax benefits — it is more advantageous to transfer securities directly to the foundation than to liquidate them in order to make a donation.

Concordia has embarked on its most ambitious fundraising effort ever. Discover why we're leading THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA.

Visit *concordia.ca/campaign*.

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